

## **Amendments to the Specification**

On page 1, before line 6, please insert the following heading:

### **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

On Page 1, before line 11, please insert the following heading:

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

On Page 1, before line 26, please insert the following heading:

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

On Page 1, before line 5, please insert the following text:

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

These and other aspects of the present invention may be more fully understood with reference to, but not limited by, the following drawing:

FIG 1. is a front view of a filter with support cage.

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9 and ending on page 5, line 14 with the following paragraph:

As can be seen in ~~the figure~~ FIG. 1, the main components of the chromatographic column 1 according to the invention are a filter element consisting substantially of a support cage 3

and a filter 10, the chromatography material 12 and also a substantially syringe-shaped column element 2 into which the filter element has been inserted.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 and ending on page 6, line 22 with the following paragraph:

The actual cage region 17, which is formed by the mentioned longitudinal struts 7 and transverse struts 8, 9, is followed by a sleeve-like portion 6 whose outer surface, unlike that of the actual cage region 17, is closed, as can be seen diagrammatically in ~~the figure~~ FIG. 1. In addition, the outer contour of the sleeve-like portion 6 ~~[[is]]~~ has a larger diameter than that of the cage region 17.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 26 and ending on page 6, line 31 with the following paragraph:

In order to ensure that the filter material 10 is held correctly in position also at the end face, it is possible to provide, in addition to the longitudinal strut 9, also a diagonal strut (not shown in ~~the figure~~ FIG. 1) on which the filter material can be supported at the end face.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1 and ending on page 7, line 9 with the following paragraph:

The mentioned filter element consisting of the support cage 3 and the filter 10 can be inserted into a syringe-shaped plastic column 2 from the open end thereof. In the inserted state shown in ~~the figure~~ FIG. 1, the filter element is suspended by its collar 4 on the open end of the plastics column 2, it being possible for that end also to be widened in the manner of a flange, as shown in ~~the figure~~ FIG. 1 (see reference numeral 5).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 22 and ending on page 7, line 28 with the following paragraph:

As can be seen from ~~the figure~~ FIG. 1, the support cage 3 is in contact with the plastics column 2 only in the region of the collar 4 and the widened sleeve-like portion 6. The remaining part of the support cage 3, on the other hand, and in particular the actual cage region 17 with the annular struts 8, 9 and the longitudinal struts 7, is at a distance from the inside wall of the plastics column 2.